

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising one or more central processing units, system software for controlling said one or more central processing units, storage means containing one or more databases with information regarding buyers and sellers and the goods/services available, one or more servers providing for Internet-based access and use of said system, means for buyers of goods/services to select between at least one direct sales channel and at least one indirect sales channel for completion of a transaction, means for buyers to transmit requests for quotation to said system, means for said system to transmit requests for quotation to selected sellers, means for sellers to transmit quotations to buyers in response to requests for same.

2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for buyers to purchase goods/services by linking directly to seller ordering systems.

3. A method for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising the steps of:

providing access to a searchable seller goods/services information database to search for desired items;

providing buyers with at least one direct sales channel and at least one indirect sales channel from a single point of purchase;

receiving requests for quotation for goods/services from buyers;

sending said requests for quotation to selected sellers; and

processing seller quotations submitted in response to said requests for quotation.

4. In a system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, means for providing at least one direct sales channel and at least one indirect sales channel to buyers from a single point of purchase.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of providing buyers with a direct link to seller ordering systems.

6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of selecting appropriate sellers to receive said requests for quotation based on filter conditions provided by buyers or sellers.

13